

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

The public was able to attend the regular Board of Education meeting which was held in person in the high school auditorium or on-line by visiting the Sauquoit Valley Central School District's website at www.svcsd.org and clicking the link to the meeting.

Date of Meeting: August 17, 2021

Kind of Meeting: Regular

Presiding Officer: Mrs. Miller, President.

Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Miller at 7:02 p.m. She explained that the order of the agenda will have some changes.

Members Present: Dawn Miller, Anthony Nicotera, Ronald Critelli, Jim Dever, Judy Kentile, and Todd Nelson. Mike Sacco via on-line.

Administrators Present: Ronald Wheelock, Superintendent of Schools; Charles Cowen, Business Administrator; Brian Read, HS Principal; Pete Madden; MS Principal; Mark Putnam, ES Principal; Tracy Facchini; Director of Pupil Personnel

Others Present: Parents and Community members

Pledge of Allegiance – The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Presentation(s) – Steve Heaslip, from Day Automation Company (LED Lighting Project) gave an informative presentation on the opportunity to save money in switching all lighting to LED and reviewing other areas of cutting costs in utility expenses. They coordinate with capital projects to assist in saving school money. Questions and answers with the Board ensued. He thanked the Board for the time to do the presentation and is available for any questions. The Board thanked him for coming.

Charles Cowen, Business Administrator explained the federal funds from the government and the use of it. The funds must be spent by September 3, 2024. The use of some of this money will improve the fund balance of the school district.

Board of Education Sub-Committee Reports – There was none.

Old Business – There was none.

New Business - Mrs. Miller stated that she will read motions 9.1 to 9.28 as a consent motion and take one vote. If there are any questions or comments, members can do so prior to vote or pull a motion for further discussion.

Mr. Nicotera requested that motion 9.12 be pulled.

Resolution No. 10 made by Mr. Nelson, and seconded by Mr. Nicotera

- to appoint Adam Crossman to the position of Transportation Supervisor, provisional, pursuant to all applicable Civil Service rules and regulations, effective August 18, 2021.
- RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District, pursuant to all applicable Civil Service rules and regulations, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint Kelli Reed to a teacher aide position at the elementary school effective September 1, 2021 for a probationary period of 26 weeks to commence on September 1, 2021 and to expire on March 23, 2022.
- to approve Nancy Zumpano as a long-term math substitute teacher in the high school, Math, effective September 1, 2021, through June 24, 2022, unless classroom teacher returns earlier from leave.
- to approve Alysia Hladik, reading teacher in the middle school, in the reading tenure area, for probationary period of four (4) years to commence September 1, 2021 and to expire September 1, 2025 (This expiration date is tentative and conditional only. Except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Section 3012 of the Education Law, in order to be granted tenure the teacher must receive composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Section 3012-c and/or 3012-d of the Education Law of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years, and if the teacher receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period the teacher shall not be eligible for tenure at that time).
- appoint Nikki Trexler as per diem substitute teacher effective September 7, 2021.
- RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District, pursuant to all applicable Civil Service rules and regulations, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint Shania Taylor to a teacher aide position at the middle school effective September 1, 2021 for a probationary period of 26 weeks to commence on September 1, 2021 and to expire on March 23, 2022.
- to appoint Karina Zabko as per diem substitute teacher effective September 7, 2021.
- to appoint Isabelle (Diane) Malysa to custodian/bus driver effective September 1, 2021.
- to approve maternity leave for Natalie Powers to commence on or about September 7, 2021 to be continuous for ten weeks from actual commencement date; and to approve an unpaid child care leave that is otherwise not covered by approved sick leave time.

- to grant Jeanette Lewis a leave of absence from position of custodian effective August 31, 2021 as she pursues her provisional appointment as Bus Dispatcher.
- RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District, pursuant to all applicable Civil Service rules and regulations, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, does hereby provisional appoint Jeanette Lewis to bus dispatcher position effective September 1, 2021.
- BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the following donations as listed:

FROM	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Rotary Club of Sauquoit	Purchase protective cases for Chromebooks	\$5,000.00
Sauquoit Valley Class of 2021	Purchase protective cases for Chromebooks	\$2,487.55

- BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the Transportation Contract with Karen Staplin for the 2021-22 school year. The contract will allow Ms. Staplin to transport her dependents to/from home and the Utica Academy of Science located at 160 School Lane, Frankfort, NY 13340.
- to approve the agreement between Sauquoit Valley Central School District and Small Blessings Preschool (UPK Program) for the 2021-22 school year.
- to approve the lease agreement between Small Blessings Preschool and Sauquoit Valley Central School District for the rental of one classroom.
- to approve combination between Sauquoit Valley Central School and New Hartford Central School in the sport of girls gymnastics for the fall 2021 sport season.
- that the following people be appointed to athletic coaching positions for the 2021-22 school year contingent upon student athlete participation in each sport and pending completion of adult basic CPR and approval of coaching certifications.

POSITION	LEVEL	BOYS/GIRLS	NAME
Soccer	Modified	Boys	Dawson Green
Soccer	JV	Girls	Dan George
Field Hockey	Modified	Girls	Emily LaSalle
Football	VOLUNTEER		Anthony Rocco

- that Darleen Philpotts be appointed as SADD advisor at the middle school.
- to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM TAX ROLLS AND AUTHORIZE TAX LEVY

WHEREAS the Board of Education has been authorized by the voters of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District to raise for the 2021-2022 school year a sum not to exceed \$24,636,888.00

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board fix the equalized tax rates by towns and confirm the extension of the taxes as they appear on the following described tax roll:

TOWN	ASSESSED VALUE (levy purposes)	CLERGY EXEMPTION	ASSESSED Value (apportionment)	EQUALIZ RATE	TRUE VALUE (apportionment)	PROPORTION OF TRUE VALUE (apportionment)	PROPORTION USED	Assessed Value for Tax Rate Calculation	Tax Rate per thousand
<i>Paris</i>	239,456,651	1,500	239,458,151	0.7950	301,205,221.38	66.817389%	5,491,200.04	239,456,651.00	22.931917
<i>New Hartford</i>	50,743,715		50,743,715	0.7000	72,491,021.43	16.080932%	1,321,566.40	50,743,715.00	26.043943
<i>Frankfort</i>	31,351,851		31,351,851	0.6140	51,061,646.58	11.327181%	930,892.61	31,351,851.00	29.691791
<i>Litchfield</i>	15,304,692		15,304,692	0.7500	20,406,256.00	4.526790%	372,021.55	15,304,692.00	24.307680
<i>Marshall</i>	2,948,415		2,948,415	0.5900	4,997,313.56	1.108571%	91,104.82	2,948,415.00	30.899593
<i>Kirkland</i>	287,401		287,401	0.5400	532,224.07	0.118065%	9,702.85	287,401.00	33.760666
<i>Bridgewater</i>	87,390		87,390	0.9200	94,989.13	0.021072%	1,731.72	87,390.00	19.816043
	340,180,115		340,181,615		450,788,672.16	1.00000000	\$8,218,220.00	340,180,115	

AND BE IT HEREBY DIRECTED THAT the tax warrant of this board, duly signed shall be affixed to the above-described tax rolls authorizing the collection of said taxes to begin September 1, 2021 and end November 1, 2021 giving the tax warrant an effective period of 62 days at the expiration of which time the tax collector shall make an accounting in writing to the board;

AND IT IS FURTHER DIRECTED THAT the delinquent tax penalties shall be fixed as follows:

- 1st month free period,
- 2nd month interest of 2 percent added.

- To adapt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS; to the collector of Sauquoit Valley Central School District, Oneida County, State of New York.

You are hereby commanded:

To give notice and start collection on September 1, 2021 in accordance with the provisions of Section 1322 of the Real Property Tax Law.

To give notice that tax collection will end on November 1, 2021.

To collect taxes in the total sum of \$8,218,220 (inclusive of STAR funds) in the same manner that collectors are authorized to collect town and county taxes in accordance with the provisions of Section 1318 of the Real Property Tax Law.

To make no changes or alterations in the tax warrant or the tax rolls but shall return the same to the board of education. The board may recall its warrant and tax roll for

correction of errors or omissions in accordance with the provisions of Section 1316 of the Real Property Tax Law.

To forward by mail to each owner of real property listed on the tax rolls within ten days after the start of collection a statement of taxes due on his/her property on tax bills provided by the school district in accordance with provisions of Section 922 of Real Property Tax Law. To forward by mail, without interest penalties, to the office of the county treasurer a detailed tax bill of all state land parcels liable for taxes on the school tax rolls in accordance with provisions of Sections 540 and 544 of the real Property Tax Law.

To receive from each of the taxable corporations and natural persons the sum listed on the tax rolls without interest penalties when such sums are paid before the end of the first month of the tax collection period. To add two percent interest penalties to all taxes collected during the second month of the tax collection and to account for such sums as income due to the school district.

To issue receipts provided by the school district in acknowledgement of receipt of payments of taxes and to retain, preserve and file such receipts as required by Section 987 of the Real Property Tax Law.

To promptly return the warrant at its expiration and if any taxes shall be unpaid at that time, deliver an accounting thereof on forms showing by town the total assessed valuation, tax rate, the total tax levy, the total amounts remaining uncollected as required by Section 1330 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The warrant is issued pursuant to Sections 910, 912 and 914 of the Real Property Tax Law and is delivered in accordance with Sections 1306 and 1318 of this law. It is effective immediately after it is properly signed by a majority of the board of education. The warrant shall expire on the date stated above unless a renewal or extension has been endorsed on the face of this warrant in writing in accordance with Section 1318, subdivision 2 of the Real Property Tax Law.

- that the district treasurer be authorized to make inter-appropriation fund transfers in the total amount of \$912,132.56 for the 2020-2021 school year.
- to accept the results of the school bus auction bids held through Auction International that closed on August 16, 2021.
- RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COMMENCEMENT OF E-CIGARETTES AND VAPING LITIGATION

WHEREAS, the use and abuse of e-cigarettes and vaping devices has increased dramatically among high school and middle school students in recent years, leading to significant risks of addiction, potentially life threatening respiratory ailments, and other health consequences; and

WHEREAS, the use of e-cigarettes and vapid devices by students has caused the Sauquoit Valley Central School District (the "School District") to incur costs in the form of staff time, disciplinary proceedings, and other costs, with the expectation that these costs will only increase unless and until student use of these devices decreases; and

WHEREAS, the School District's Board of Education (the "Board") has been invited to join a nation-wide lawsuit by school districts against Juul Labs, Inc. the largest seller of e-cigarettes in the United States and other parties responsible for the production, marketing, sale and distribution of e-cigarettes and vaping devices; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to join this lawsuit to discourage the proliferation of e-cigarettes, end the marketing of e-cigarettes to children, and seek compensation for harm caused to the District due to e-cigarette use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby resolves:

1. To appoint the law firms of Ferrara Fiorenza PC, and the Frantz Law Group, APLC and approve the agreement to provide legal services in connection with pursuing claims for damages against Juul Labs, Inc. and others consistent with the recitals above;
2. To authorize the Superintendent to take all steps necessary for the District to become an active co-plaintiff to pending litigation filed on behalf of school districts Nationwide by the Frantz Law Group against Juul Labs, Inc. and others.
 - that the Treasurer's Report of Balances for July 31, 2021 be approved as presented.
 - that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor dated August 3, 2021.
 - that the minutes of the July 27, 2021 meeting be approved.
 - that the Board of Education upon completion of its review of the IEP in accordance with Section 200.4(d)(2) of the Regulations of the Commissioner agrees to arrange for appropriate special education programs and services for students numbered 1401073, 103195, 1400943, 1400625, 1401530, 1401532, and 1401484 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Mr. Nicotera thanked Susan Sanderson for her years of service with Sauquoit Valley. Mr. Wheelock spoke highly of Susan's work as a teacher aide and unfortunate that she is leaving but it is understandable. He wishes her and her family well.

Resolution 11 made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Mr. Critelli

- to accept the resignation of Susan Sanderson, teacher aide effective August 18, 2021.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Miscellaneous Topics

Mr. Nelson asked for an update on the installation of the cameras. Mr. Wheelock stated that the wires were installed but the cameras have not, as of today. Mr. Nelson thanked him for the update.

Public to Be Heard Mrs. Miller welcomed comments from the public but did remind everyone to limit their comments to 5 minutes and to be respectful to each other's comments and opinions.

Nathan Hanna started the dialog discussing the CR-SE stressing that the Board should not add this into the school curriculum. He repeated the statistics of specific words that were in the document and the number of times they were mentioned. Mr. Hanna at his conclusion also stated that he is for the parents to be able to make the decision to wear a mask or not. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.

Many parents of the Sauquoit School District voiced their opinions on the right to let them and their children have the choice to wear or not wear a mask to school. Their reasoning was due to their parental rights, emotional and mental stress along with the decline in socialization with their classmates and how it is effecting the students. Some stated the statistics show that youngsters contracting COVID is low. Questions were asked as to who makes the decisions for the school? It was explained that public to be heard is the public's opportunity to share concerns with the Board and that it is not an open dialog with the Board. They even gave examples of how the parks, restaurants, stores and social gatherings are open.

One parent was concerned that the COVID virus will not be going away soon. But his worries are those children who contemplate suicide. Children need normalcy. Some even feel that getting the COVID will build one's body's immunity system.

One parent spoke on the positive aspects of wearing masks. Wearing masks is helping to control the spreading of COVID to those in the school and community. COVID will take a toll on many especially those with underlying conditions. The children should be in school for not just academics but also for the social interaction. To accomplish this it is wise to require the wearing of facial masks. It is the community as a whole that should be taken into consideration when the decision is made.

Dr. Ritter spoke on the statistics of Oneida County. The Board should not make their decision on those numbers as they may not be accurate. Many know that when this all started all deaths were classified as COVID so the hospitals received funding.

Mr. Nicotera thanked everyone for voicing their opinions. He is speaking on behalf of the parents and families that were unable to attend. He made a motion to wear facial masks in the upcoming school year.

Mr. Sacco commented that division does occur and is unessential. Those vaccinated should not have to wear a mask and those who are not vaccinated should wear the masks.

Ms. Kentile told her story of her child's health condition, their family life style and how she now feels that people should live a full life the way they choose to. Mask wearing should be their choice.

Mr. Nelson thanked all the parents for coming and voicing their opinions. He stated that Mr. Nicotera and the parents are all for the same cause; to defend our kids.

Mrs. Facchini read off several questions that were asked in the chat room:

What is the process of those who become ill?

- Vaccination status?
- Will there be a survey sent out asking parents how they feel?
- Will the N95 masks be provided by the school, if that those masks are the proper and efficient one?
- Will there be fall sports and can they attend?
- Can outdoor classes occur if the weather permits?

Mr. Nelson asked the Board to revise the suggested motion of Mr. Nicotera to include a revisit on the facial mask wearing at the October 12th meeting.

Resolution No. 12 made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Mr. Dever,

WHEREAS, the District is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of all students, staff, visitors and other members of the local community; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, and particularly the Delta variant, is prevalent in New York and in Oneida County; and

WHEREAS, both the CDC and NYSED have promulgated guidance urging all, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks indoors on school district property; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida County Department of Health has advised that all people regardless of vaccination status, wear masks when indoors on school district property; NOW, therefore, it is hereby resolved:

That until further notice, anyone, including students, staff and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, is required to wear a mask when indoors on school district property, unless medically unable to do so.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately with a review of the situation at the October 12, 2021 Board meeting.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a roll call vote, which resulted as follows:

Mike Sacco	No	Anthony Nicotera	Yes
Jim Dever	Yes	Judy Kentile	No
Ron Critelli	Yes	Todd Nelson	Yes
Dawn Miller	Yes		

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wheelock reminded everyone of the upcoming dates and events of importance:

- Freshmen Orientation, August 18
- Staff Development September 1 & 2 with school starting Tuesday, the 7th of September
- Free Lunches to all 18 year old and younger students

Executive Session (Mike Sacco lost connection and left the meeting)

Resolution No. 13 made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Mr. Nelson, that the Board of Education go into executive session at 10:14 p.m. to discuss contractual negotiations for the Teachers Association.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0.

The executive session was declared over by the Board President at 11:02 p.m.

Resolution No. 14 made by Mr. Nelson, and seconded by Ms. Kentile, that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 11:02 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Goodman,
District Clerk
Board of Education